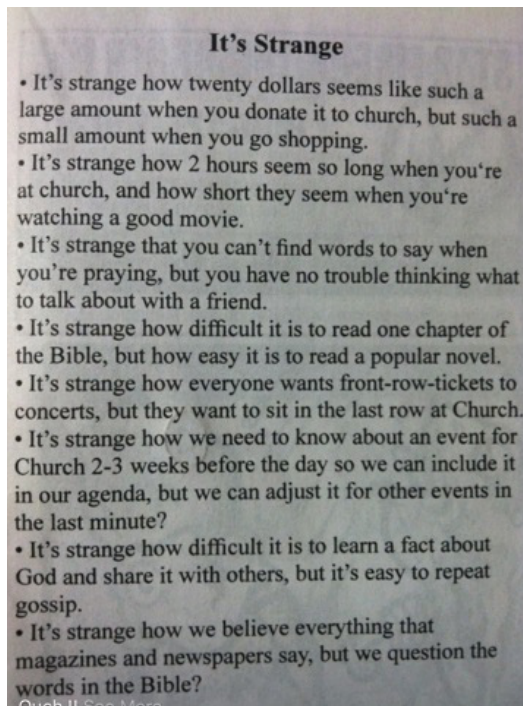


Do we love God or love the world? By Thailer Jimerson



I saw the picture above on facebook the other day and it stung my guilty corneas. Wow – my, how I have been guilty of not loving the Lord and his people as the gospel deserves. Maybe you've felt the same way.

But why is it so hard to serve the Lord and so easy to serve ourselves? I think it all boils down to what we love. The apostle John writes in **1Jn.5.3** this, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome." His commandments are not burdensome? What? Have you tried living the Christian life? It is definitely hard.

But that's the thing: it's not hard if your loves are ordered correctly. Do you love God as number one? If you really do, anything he asks becomes a pleasure and privilege, rather than a burden. There is a story in Ge.29.20 that tells of Jacob's love for Rachel. But, according to the culture of the day, Jacob had to work for his wife. So Laban, Rachel's father, makes Jacob work for him for seven years. Seven years! Of course we think "Man, that'd be too long for any engagement." But the Bible tells us that the years flew by *because of the love Jacob had for Rachel*. The love eased the burden of time. Likewise, the love we have for God will lighten the burden of obedience.

Better yet, the Bible tells us this fiery passion for God is something God himself places within us – Ro.5.5. Have we asked God to give us a love for him like that? Have we forgotten the gospel message, seeing God's love for us on the cross and the depths through which he'll go to save us. Are our appetites godwardly calibrated toward things like bible reading, devotion and prayer?

Next time you feel like it's a little too easy to serve yourself rather than serving God, go through all those aforementioned diagnostic questions so we can get to placing God as the supreme love of our life. If we do this, perhaps the loads will disappear.